

A faint, light blue map of Washington State is visible in the background on the left side of the slide.

Presumptive Medical Conditions for Female Fire Fighters

Initial Consideration

**WASHINGTON STATE
Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters'
Plan 2 Retirement Board**

May 25, 2005

Presumptive Coverage Research

- Fire fighter occupational health extensively studied, many unresolved issues
 - Dr. TL Guidotti, 2003
- Three major studies since 1995
 - Study cohorts exclusively male
 - Too few females in study population

Presumptive Coverage Research

- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
 - Three studies in progress
 - Studying relationship of carcinogens and breast cancer.
- Reproductive systems an “important part” of National Occupational Research Agenda

Presumption Coverage in Washington

- Presumption that certain diseases are occupationally related
- Occupational Disease includes
 - Respiratory Disease (1987)
 - Heart Problems after exposure (2002)
 - Certain Cancers (2002)
 - Certain Infectious Diseases (2002)

Presumptive Coverage in Washington

- 2002 presumptive bill as introduced covered broad range of cancers.
- Originally included breast and reproductive system cancer.
- Bill amended listing only specific types of cancer

Coverage in Other Jurisdictions

- At least 38 states have heart and lung presumption
- At least 20 states have cancer presumption
- At least 2 states include breast and reproductive system cancer

Coverage in Other Jurisdictions

- Definition of occupational cancer in some states may allow for inclusion of breast and reproductive cancer.
 - Exposure to heat, radiation, or carcinogens.
 - Cancer caused by known or suspected carcinogen as determined by International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Coverage in Other Jurisdictions

- Since 1999, seven states have failed to pass cancer presumption legislation.
- Three of seven failed bills included coverage for breast cancer.
- One of seven failed bills included coverage for reproductive system cancer.

Questions?